

Week 2: Pray for Yang Rongli (China)



Pastor Yang Rongli (69) is co-founder of Linfen Golden Lampstand Church in China's Shanxi province with her husband Wang Xiaoguang and is pastor of the 50,000-member Linfen House Church Network. She is serving a 15-year prison sentence for "fraud" for collecting church offerings (a common charge against pastors of unregistered churches) and is not due for release until 2036. Her husband is serving a sentence of nine years and seven months for "fraud". Pastor Yang is a highly respected preacher and Pastor Wang writes theology books.

Golden Lampstand has suffered persecution for many years because it refuses to join the official, heavily-regulated Three-Self Church. In 2009 Pastor Yang was sentenced to seven years in prison and her husband to three years after they protested a massive, violent raid.

After Pastor Yang's release in 2016 the Religious Affairs Bureau again demanded that the church join the Three-Self Church but Pastor Yang refused, resulting in the loss of her pension and medical benefits. In January 2018 the authorities demolished the Golden Lampstand Church building.

In 2021 Linfen authorities launched an investigation to identify key church members and within weeks the two pastors and several co-workers were arrested on "fraud" charges. The pastors were tried in April 2025 under very heavy security and two months later Pastor Yang was told she had been sentenced to 15 years in prison and a fine of 500,000 yuan (approximately €60,000). Her husband was sentenced to nine years and seven months in prison and fined 100,000 yuan. Their co-workers were given heavy sentences, with the longest (nine years and two months) for Li Shuangping, who led the church during the pastors' previous imprisonment and continued to co-lead with them after their release.

The court authorised the seizure of around €2 million-worth of church and personal assets to cover "fraudulent offerings" and it confiscated church funds, vehicles and equipment and froze bank accounts. In its judgment, the court concluded that the church constituted a criminal group and that the defendants had participated in an "illegal religious entity".

The pastors and co-workers appealed their sentences but in August 2025 the court rejected their appeals, upholding the original verdicts and sentences. Pastor Yang suffers from diabetes and has been denied adequate medical care in prison.

Family

Yang Rongli and Wang Xiaoguang have a son, Wang Yunxiang, who is married with a son called Ya Lun (Aaron).

Latest News

On 15 August 2025 Linfen Intermediate People's Court rejected Pastor Yang's appeal.

Prayer Diary

Sunday	Ask God to bless and protect Pastor Yang Rongli in prison.
Monday	Pray that Pastor Yang would receive medical care for diabetes.
Tuesday	Pray for Pastor Yang's imprisoned husband Wang Xiaoguang.
Wednesday	Pray for early release for the pastors and their co-workers.
Thursday	Ask God to sustain the Golden Lampstand Church network.
Friday	Pray for hope and encouragement for Pastor Yang's family.
Saturday	Pray for freedom for unregistered churches in China.

